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Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-22 July 2010
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Statement submitted by International Peace Research Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

10-36759 (E) 170610

Please recycle

Statement

Towards gender-responsive and equitable climate change financing

It is an acknowledged fact that when climate change strikes, people living in poverty, 70 per cent of whom are women, are in the frontlines. Indeed, climate change exacerbates the feminization of poverty and, reciprocally, women living in poverty contribute to climate change.

In the case of rural women and girls, insecure livelihoods owing to reduced crop yields increase the burden of household chores (collecting water, food and fuel) and reduce the time available for education and income generation. This results in unsustainable coping strategies (deforestation, migration) that damage the Earth's life support systems, leading to environmental instabilities (droughts, floods) that threaten livelihoods. Thus, the cycle of violence continues, violating the rights of both women and Mother Earth.

However, women need not be victims of climate change, nor need they remain caught in the cycle of violence. They are powerful forces for change: problem solvers and leaders responsible for the basic security and well-being of their families and communities, and policy advocates capable of influencing effective, gender-responsive legislation in their local Governments. This should be acknowledged and women's knowledge and skills drawn upon in developing and implementing policy for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, including the financing of such efforts.

To this end, and to ensure that the financing of climate change is gender-responsive and equitable, we recommend the following:

Legal frameworks: In determining the allocation of climate change funding, attention should be paid to whether potential recipients have in place legal frameworks that incorporate gender concerns and ensure that the rights of women living in poverty are taken into account.

Women in decision-making: Women leaders should participate at the top level of decision-making regarding various aspects of climate change finance, for example:

- When identifying recipients of funds, advisers responsible for climate change finance should be guided by women familiar with community needs.
- In the development of a "green economy", women should be considered for leadership roles.
- To ensure the incorporation of women into the planning of technological projects, funding for the education of women and girls should ensure that they receive training in science and math.

Sharing the benefits of climate change finance: In allocating funds for climate change projects, special consideration should be given to:

- Mitigation and adaptation, geared to benefit and protect women and girls.
- Small-scale programmes, generally managed by women and aimed at achieving social and ecological benefits over the long term.

- Social sectors, such as those that ensure food security and health, where climate change is threatening human security.
- Regional groups of grass-roots women who have developed resilient responses to climate change in their communities and have sought wider collaboration.

Finally, to ensure the incorporation of gender into climate change finance, we propose the establishment of a monitoring mechanism, so that recommendations such as those listed here are adequately addressed.

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Statement submitted by Presbyterian Church USA and World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Partners for change: faith-based engagement in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women

We affirm gender equality and empowerment of women as critical components of sustainable development practices, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the realization of internationally agreed goals and commitments to women's human rights.

Despite commitments and goals which highlight gender equality and empowerment of women, defended in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international mechanisms, the world is far from celebrating universal women's empowerment and equality.

We affirm the Christian principle that women and men have been created equally, with the dignity and worth of human beings created in the image of God. Recognizing that progress requires action across institutions and global sectors, we remain committed to seeking justice and partnering for change that ensures the transformation of institutions and the achievement of internationally agreed goals for women's advancement.

We recommend that:

- Resources be mobilized at all levels to integrate the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action into United Nations programmes and resolutions.
- Implementation, evaluation and measurement of progress towards the Beijing Platform for Action be integrated into the mandate of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- Women be included in decision-making and leadership positions at all levels of local, national and international political life and in decisions regarding development policies and programmes in efforts to reach Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015.
- Women be given equal access to financial credit, credit for microenterprises and the necessary resources to participate fully in the economic sector, with a particular emphasis on reducing the disproportionate impact of the global financial and economic crisis on women, girls and other vulnerable populations.
- Women's participation in political life be encouraged through literacy in human rights and the enforcement of laws that protect women and promote their empowerment.
- Contributions of women to international peace and security efforts be recognized and encouraged, and international commitments to end violence against women, particularly in conflict areas, as emphasized in Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), be fully implemented.
- Resources be mobilized at the national and international levels to end cultural and legal practices that grant perpetrators of violence against women impunity.

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Statement submitted by World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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Statement

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations has a strong commitment to the achievement of equal rights for women. Its representatives have participated in all the major women's conferences, beginning with Mexico City in 1975, Beijing in 1995, and annual attendance at the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Since the Beijing Conference and the Beijing Platform for Action, substantial progress has been achieved in terms of legislation guiding international norms. Most States Members of the United Nations have signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, along with its Optional Protocol, although some signed with reservations. Most have made commitments to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals agreed to at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000. Goals 1, 2 and 3 are crucial to the rights of women. Additional positive steps include Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in armed conflicts. Despite extensive legislative progress, similar progress in the implementation of these legal commitments has not been achieved. One only needs to look at the statistics for trafficking of women and girls, domestic violence, unequal pay for equal work, feminization of poverty, unequal representation of women in elected office and the burden on women with respect to caring for disabled and ageing family members to realize that inequality remains extensive. This imbalance persists despite evidence that when even a semblance of equality is achieved, social and economic well-being soon follows. We can no longer afford to simply make promises of equality while continuing to deprive women of equal rights.

Therefore, we ask all Governments to:

- Implement a policy of zero tolerance for inequality of women and men.
- Implement all commitments under United Nations conventions and their protocols, as well as all other legislation pertaining to equal rights for women and men.
- Urge countries that have not signed the United Nations conventions to do so without delay.
- Remove all reservations to the optional protocols.
- Create quotas for the election of women to Government positions at all levels, in order to achieve 50 per cent participation in decision-making.
- Create family policies that enable women to make free choices about participation in the political, economic and social spheres, while providing care for their children, ageing and disabled family members.
- Provide adequate funding in Government budgets for equal rights education.
- Provide funding and conduct campaigns on equality issues, using modern technology and media.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against women, including prostitution and trafficking, by instituting severe punishment for the purchase of sexual services or forced labour.

- Involve women in decisions about continuing or entering into armed conflict.
- Make concerted efforts to eliminate the resolution of conflict through war, as war itself is the greatest violation of women's human rights.